

From: Cindy <cmulhearn6@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 8:11 PM
To: envtestimony
Cc: Sen. Markley, Joe; Rep. Aresimowicz, Joe
Subject: I oppose SB 832

To the members of the Environmental Committee,

Please accept this testimony in strong opposition to SB 832. I am a resident of Southington CT. I care about animals and I vote. As written, the bill does not adequately address the conflicts with dangerous wildlife since it doesn't address the main sources of habituation such as garbage and bird feeders. It also makes no provision for education and this is critically important to successfully address this issue. Most importantly, it uses "felidae" to define potentially dangerous animals which means it would include feral and pet cats. Therefore, this bill will penalize the people who conduct Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs with feral cats as well as community cat caretakers. The people who volunteer their time for TNR or caring for community cats are providing a public service to the state and should not be penalized. This bill will greatly hamper their efforts to reduce the cat overpopulation and will cost the state so much more in the long run. Instead of hurting volunteers, I would like my lawmakers to help them by enacting more proactive solutions such as incentivizing spay/neuter programs.

This bill needs substitute language or needs to be rewritten so it doesn't penalize the management of feral cats. I also encourage the DEEP to partner with HSUS on educational materials and resources concerning animal habituation.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain my strong opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Mulhearn
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Sent from Cindy's iPad